

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A sweetener composition, comprising:

- (a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine-1-methyl ester; and
- (b) aspartame,

[wherein said aspartame is present in said composition in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total amount of said aspartame and said

N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester] wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal or an A-type crystal.

11. (Amended) A drink composition, comprising:

(A) a mixture, comprising

- (a) N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester;
- and

(b) aspartame;

and

(B) a potable liquid, [wherein said aspartame is present in said mixture in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total amount of said aspartame and said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester] wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal or an A-type crystal.

12. (Amended) A method for preparing a sweetener composition, comprising:

(1) drying A-type crystals of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester to obtain C-type crystals of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester; and

(2) mixing said C-type crystals of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester with aspartame, to obtain said sweetener composition, [wherein said aspartame is present in said sweetener composition in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total weight of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said aspartame] wherein said

N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal having a water content of less than 3% by weight.

13. (Amended) A method for producing a sweetener, comprising:

mixing N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester with aspartame, to obtain said sweetener composition, [wherein said aspartame is present in said sweetener composition in an amount of 50 to 97% by weight based on the total weight of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said aspartame] wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprises a C-type crystal or an A-type crystal.

15. (Amended) A method for improving the dissolution rate of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester, comprising:

mixing said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester with aspartame, prior to dissolving said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester,

[wherein said aspartame is mixed with said
N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester in an amount of 50
to 97% by weight based on the total weight of said

N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and said
aspartame] wherein said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl
ester comprises a C-type crystal or an A-type crystal.